

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00133 221129Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 SAM-01 /081 W

----- 121921

R 221005Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8219

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PARM, ICRC, WMO, SZ, VS, VN, FI

SUBJECT: PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE

ON LAW OF WAR AND PROPOSED PRG OBSERVER

STATUS AT SEVENTH WMO CONGRESS

REF: (A) STATE 008673 (B) STATE 010509 (C) HELSINKI

2491 (NOTAL)

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN  
STATE REFTELS, POLOFF TODAY TOOK UP WITH FONMIN  
UN AFFAIRS CHIEF, MATTI KAHILUOTO, QUESTIONS OF  
PRG ISSUE AT SECOND SESSION OF CONFERENCE ON LOW  
AND PROPOSED PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS.

2. ON QUESTION OF PRG AT LOW CONFERENCE POLOFF RE-  
VIEWED US VIEWS ON PRG, WHICH BY NOW WELL-KNOWN TO  
GOF. POLOFF THEN TOOK UP WITH KAHILUOTO POSSIBLE  
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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00133 221129Z

PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF ISSUE AS SPELLED OUT IN

PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REF (A), AND REQUESTED THAT FINLAND AT MINIMUM SUPPORT US ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND ABSTAIN ON SUBSTANCE, AS REQUESTED IN PARA 17 OF REFTTEL (A).

3. KAHILUOTO SAID THAT HE FELT SURE THAT ISSUE WOULD BE TAKEN UP AT LOW CONFERENCE. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD EXPECT A CHAIRMAN'S RULING IN FAVOR OF RULE 32 TO BE CHALLENGED.

4. KAHILUOTO THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WOULD HIMSELF ATTEND AT LEAST BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE BUT ADDED THAT INSTRUCTIONS FOR FINNISH DELEGATION HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED. AS TO A LIKELY FINNISH POSITION, KAHILUOTO SAID THAT SINCE FINLAND HAD ABSTAINED LAST YEAR IT WOULD NOT NOW OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION. POLOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANT THAT THERE WAS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST POSSIBILITY THAT FINLAND WOULD CONSIDER VOTING IN FAVOR OF PRG PARTICIPATION RATHER THAN ABSTAINING. KAHILUOTO REPLIED TO THIS THAT WHOLE QUESTION OF FINNISH POLICY ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES WAS A POLITICAL ONE THAT WOULD BE DECIDED ON POLITICAL LEVEL.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION KAHILUOTO SAID THAT THERE WERE GROUPS IN FINLAND WHO WERE APPLYING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT. THESE GROUPS WERE USING A STATEMENT MADE BY SWEDISH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SVANTE LUNDKVIST ON NOVEMBER 15, 1974 AT THE ROME WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THE FOLLOWING IS A FREE TRANSLATION OF PERTINENT PARTS OF LUNDKVIST'S REMARKS: QUOTE: TODAY THERE ARE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM -- PRG AND THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT -- WHO DEMAND THE RIGHT TO SPEAK AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT BOTH OF THESE GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY AT A CONFERENCE OF THE TYPE THAT A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IS. IT WOULD GO AGAINST ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE IF ONE STATE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY TWO GOVERNMENTS,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HELSIN 00133 221129Z

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAID. IN THIS SITUATION SWEDEN IS NOT READY TO VOTE FOR EITHER OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, BUT IT IS ALSO NOT RIGHT ACCORDING TO OUR OPINION THAT ONE OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT, IS ALLOWED TO REPRESENT SOUTH VIET-NAM AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.

6. POLOFF POINTED OUT TO KAHILUOTO THAT ONE COULD NOT DRAW THE CONCLUSION FROM LUNDKVIST'S STATEMENT THAT SWEDEN WOULD VOTE FOR PRG PARTICIPATION. KAHILUOTO AGREED AND SAID THAT IF SWEDEN HAD THE CHANCE IT WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE QUESTION OF EITHER PRG OR SAIGON PARTICIPATION. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT PART OF PROBLEM FOR FINLAND AND SWEDEN WAS FACT THAT GVN BEING A MEMBER OF NUMBER OF UN ORGANIZATIONS WAS ALWAYS AUTOMATICALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES. IN REPLY TO QUESTION KAHILUOTO SAID THAT HE DID NOT IN FACT HAVE ANY INDICATION THAT SWEDES WERE CONSIDERING CHANGING FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ABSTENTION. (QUESTION MAY COME UP AT MEETING IN STOCKHOLM OF NORDIC FONMIN UN AFFAIRS CHIEFS AROUND 28TH OF JANUARY.)

7. ON MATTER OF PROPOSED PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT SEVENTH WMO CONGRESS, KAHILUOTO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF POSTAL BALLOT, AND WOULD HAVE TO HECK INTO IT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT ON THIS AS ON ALL OTHER OCCASIONS WHEN THE PRG ISSUE WOULD COME UP IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OR CONFERENCES, FINNS WOULD FOLLOW A CONSISTENT POLICY -- A POLICY WHICH, HE INDICATED, WAS STILL UNDER REVIEW.

8. POLOFF MADE CLEAR TO KAHILUOTO GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT USG ATTACHES TO QUESTION OF PREVENTING ANY ENHANCEMENT OF PRG'S INTERNATIONAL ROLE AND STATUS. POLOFF ALSO REQUESTED FROM KAHILUOTO THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, EMBASSY BE INFORMED BEFORE FINAL DECISION TAKEN IN CASE THERE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HELSIN 00133 221129Z

SEEMED TO BE ANY CHANCE THAT IT WOULD TURN OUT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL ABSTAINING ONE SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE MATTER UP ON HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL, AS WE HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO FONMIN KARJALAINEN IN CONNECTION WITH ANY POSSIBLE RAISING OF STATUS OF PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN HELSINKI (REFTEL C).

9. WE WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT AND ADDRESSEES INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.  
KREHBIEL

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